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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM: AMCONSUL, LAGOS, NIGERIA
RDS☐ or XDS☐ EXEMPTION(S) REASON(S)
TO AUTH.: THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON
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REVIEW DATE
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DESP. NO. 95

DATE January 12, 1955

AJDp4
L6CP3
1/21

PA ☐ FOI ☐ ACTION	DEPT.
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REC'D 1/20	OTHER CIA-7 USIA-10 ARMY-4 NAVY-3 AIR-3 LAB-4 FOA-10

SUBJECT: Bi-weekly Review COM-10 AG-7 TR-3 TAR-2 FRB-2 LONDON-1 ACCRA-1

POLITICAL

Appointment of Council of Ministers (UNCLASSIFIED)

Governor General Sir John MacPHERSON announced the appointment of the ten new Federal ministers on January 9. Six ministers were appointed from the ranks of the NCNC, three from the NPC and one from the KNC. The three new NCNC ministers are Adegoke ADELABU, Kola BALOGUN and Festus OKOTIE-EBOH, while K. O. MBADIWE, R. A. NJOKU and M. T. MBU have been reappointed to the council. The NPC is represented by former ministers Abu Bakar Tafawa BALEWA and Mallam Mohamadu RIBADU and by the newly appointed Mallam Inua WADA; while Victor MUKETE becomes Cameroon's first Federal ministe

COMMENT (UNCLASSIFIED)

Prior to the announcement the Action Group press, in an apparent effort to gain time for a last desperate try for an AG-NP alliance, had suggested that the Governor General lacked the constitutional right to appoint ministers before the full House met. The AG's official reaction was announced after a Lagos party meeting on January 11 when AWOLOWO stated that his party would provide an effective opposition in the new House.

Announcement of Ministerial Portfolios (UNCLASSIFIED)

The number of Federal portfolios has been reduced from 9 to 6. The new ministries (followed by the respective ministers) are: Transport and Works (Balewa), Communications and Aviation (Mbadiwe), Land, Mines and Power (Ribadu), Natural Resources and Social Services (Adelabu), Trade and Industry (Njoku), Labor and Welfare (Okotie-Eboh). Sir Hugo MARSHALL, the Chief Secretary of the Federation, will be responsible for Defense, External Affairs, Information and Broadcasting, Prisons, Federal Legislature and Executive, and matters relating to the Federal District of Lagos which are not within the responsibility of any other

minister

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minister. Administration of Justice and matters relating to the Administrator-General will be the responsibility of the Federation's Attorney General, Mr. A. McKISACK, while Mr. A. R. W. ROBERTSON, Financial Secretary, will be responsible for Public Accounts, Banking, Customs and Excise, Printing, Statistics, and Taxation.

Ministers Mbu, Balogun, Wada and Mukete are thus without portfolio.

COMMENT (OFFICIAL USE ONLY).

A Government source has explained the reduction in ministers as primarily the result of the diminution of Federal responsibility as compared to that of the Regions. He added that with six portfolios the 2 to 1 ratio of NCNC to NPC ministers could be maintained. It is interesting to note that former Minister of Labor M. T. Mbu, generally conceded to have been one of the weakest former cabinet members, is the only holdover minister who has no portfolio.

Opening of the Federal House of Representatives (UNCLASSIFIED)

169 newly elected members of the Federal House of Representatives, together with 15 re-elected representatives from the old House, were sworn in at the inaugural meeting of the new Federal House of Representatives today. In a brief and orderly session presided over by Sir Frederick METCALFE, former Clerk of the House of Commons, the new members listened to the Governor General's speech from the throne. Sir John first read short congratulatory messages from the Queen and the Secretary of State for the Colonies, A. T. LENNOX-BOYD, and then stated his personal satisfaction with the manner in which all political elements had demonstrated their determination to make a constitution effective during the difficult period between the close of the Federal elections and the convening of the House. He explained that because the new Council of Ministers had been chosen only 48 hours previously he was unable to outline the Government's legislative program which would be submitted to the House, but he did assure the members that no controversial measure was envisaged. The capacity of the House, originally designed to seat only 90 representatives, was taxed by the 184 members, 48 more than the previous House. Seating was according to party, in contrast to the Regional grouping of the former House.

COMMENT (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

Although the press had previously announced that the "Big 3" Regional Premiers would attend the inaugural session (as observers since Regional Premiers may not be members of the new House), Premier Awolowo

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Premier Awolowo was not present. Awolowo's absence may be attributable to his propensity to sulk when political conditions deteriorate, but it casts some doubt on AG promises to furnish a "Constructive opposition".

According to government sources, the combination of NPC unwillingness to allow the selection of a Southern Speaker of the House and the lack of a Northern candidate with suitable legal qualifications has resulted in Government hopes that Sir Frederick Metcalfe will be well received by the House and that his present temporary position may be extended.

Adjournment of Western Regional Legislative Houses (UNCLASSIFIED)

The Western House of Chiefs followed the Western House of Assembly into adjournment sine die on January 5 after approving the only two important measures considered by the lower House, the Western Regional Education Bill and the Acquisition of Land (Validation) Bill.

COMMENT (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

The latter act provides for tighter regional government supervision of local decisions regarding always-controversial land questions. It is considered to be specifically designed to curb the powers of the NCNC-controlled Ibadan Town Council.

Settlement of Western Region Chieftaincy Dispute (UNCLASSIFIED)

The Action Group press has given considerable notice to the settlement of a longstanding land dispute between rival Yoruba chiefs in the Western town of Ijebu-Ode.

COMMENT (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

Apparently Premier Awolowo played a personal role in effecting the reconciliation of grievances between the paramount chief Oba AWUJOLE and members of the native hierarchy. This may mark the beginning of an effort by the Action Group to shore up the unsatisfactory relations which exist between the Western Region Government and the majority of traditional chiefs.

Afro-Asian Conference (UNCLASSIFIED)

A scattering of unfavorable press comment resulted from the announcement that Nigeria had not been invited to attend the Afro-Asian Conference to be held in Djakarta in April. The presumed slight was heightened by the inclusion of the Gold Coast in the list of invitees.

COMMENT

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COMMENT (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

There is no official or unofficial indication that either the Government or any political party is considering sending an observer to the Conference.

Zik to Visit Liberia (UNCLASSIFIED)

The Liberian Government has announced that Premier Azikiwe will be President Tubman's guest on a week's official visit to Liberia in early February.

COMMENT (UNCLASSIFIED)

An NCNC editorial recalls that a "similar" visit to Liberia by the Gold Coast's Kwame NKRUMAH in 1952 impressed the rest of the world with the significance of closer relations between self-governing African territories. Zik's visit apparently results from arrangements made by the Eastern Regional Government rather than the Federal Government.

Western Regional Minister Addresses Ibadan District Council (UNCLASSIFIED)

Chief Rotimi WILLIAMS, Minister of Justice and Local Government for the Western Region, addressed the Ibadan District Council on January 6. After emphasizing to the members the council's importance as one of the largest local governing bodies in Nigeria, he went on to say that the council has no power to appoint or remove an hereditary chief.

COMMENT (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

The Minister's visit marked the first occasion that an official of the Western Government has appeared before the Council. His visit underlines the determination of Action Group leaders that the NCNC-controlled Council refrain from fishing in the troubled waters of chieftaincy disputes.

Selection of NCNC House Leaders (UNCLASSIFIED)

The NCNC has announced the following designations for party duties in the Federal House: Deputy Leader - H.O.DAVIES; Chief Whip - T.O.S.BENSON; Whips - D.K.ONWENU and O. KOMOLAFE; Secretary O. C. AGUNA.

Annual

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LABOR

Annual Conference of the Nigerian Union of Teachers (UNCLASSIFIED)

The NUT recently concluded its 24th annual meeting by giving a vote of confidence to its General Secretary, Mr. E. E. ESUA. During consideration of the Western Region's Universal Education Bill, Mr. Esua had drawn the wrath of the AG by announcing the Union's criticism of certain features of the bill.

Establishment of Two Industrial Councils (UNCLASSIFIED)

Joint management-labor industrial councils have been established for two of Nigeria's most volatile labor areas, the Jos mining district and the Enugu coal fields. Labor and management, in establishing the two councils under independent chairmen, have agreed that there will be no work stoppage until a dispute has been considered by the council and all negotiation methods have been exhausted.

Government Meeting with ANTUF Leaders (UNCLASSIFIED)

The Nigerian Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner of Labor met with 10 officials of the Government-recognized All Nigeria Trade Union Federation on January 6. The Commissioner promised to cooperate with ANTUF in discussing matters of mutual interest to the Union and the Government.

COMMENT (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

The major topic of discussion is reported to have concerned sectional friction within the ANTUF executive group and the possible means by which such friction might be reduced. (See ConGen Despatch No. 18 dated July 30, 1954.)

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ECONOMIC

I. TRANSPORTATION

A. RAILWAY

1. Traffic Capacity

According to a press reported statement of the General Manager of the Nigerian Railway, the Railway moved over 2½ million tons of goods in 1954. This is nearly 300,000 tons more than in 1953. The General Manager asserted that during 1955 the Railway will pass from the stage of having more traffic than it can carry to that of looking for traffic.

2. Northern Region Survey

A Railways survey party is to conduct an investigation in the Northern Region to determine:

(1) If the gauge of the Bauchi light line from Jos to Zaria should be changed from 2 feet 6 inches to three feet six inches.

(2) Feasibility of extending the existing line from Rahama to Potiskum, thence to Maiduguri.

(3) Feasibility of running a line from Damaturu through Biu to Yola.

If the proposed extensions are effected, it would mean an addition of 580 miles to the system.

B. AIR

It has been officially reported that Calabar airport is to become an international airport. Comment: The reasons for making it an international airport are to provide for transportation of Nigerian laborers to Fernando Po, São Tome and Spanish Guinea because of difficulties of sea transportation, and to provide facilities for medium and light aircraft for the Eastern Region which until now have had to come to Lagos for clearance. No substantial modifications of the field are required except for provision of facilities to WHO requirements. The field will be limited to aircraft not exceeding about 75,000 lbs all up weight.

C. ROADS

Unusual flood conditions at Lake Chad have closed the roads in the area. Movement of goods from Nigeria to Fort Lamy in French

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French Chad has been brought to a complete standstill and as a result it is reported that many prices in the French territory have risen. It is not expected that traffic will be able to resume movement before the end of January.

D. SHIPPING

1. Port Congestion

There has been serious congestion in Nigerian deepwater ports as a result of the recent dockworkers' strike in the United Kingdom. Concentrated arrival of delayed cargos and lack of adequate warehouse facilities have slowed ship turn-arounds and have resulted in reduced working hours for dock-workers. Conditions will probably not return to normal for several weeks.

2. Port Facilities

Plans are being drawn for the construction of three new deep sea berths at Port Harcourt. It is estimated that the total project cost will be about £3,000,000 and that the work may be completed in about 5 years. Inadequate facilities have caused serious congestion at the port where there are now only four deep sea berths which will frequently accomodate only three ships. A proposal has already been approved for the construction of a lighter wharf as an emergency measure. Plans are also being considered for improving the method of discharging bulk petroleum from tankers and for building extra storage facilities for coal and mineral ores.

II. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

A. EASTERN REGION AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL

The Eastern Region is building an agricultural school which it hopes to have completed by the end of this year. It will be run along similar lines to the schools now in operation in the Western and Northern Regions. It is planned to provide facilities for 60 students, giving a 16 months course for agricultural assistants and a 12 months course for Field Overseers. A research station is to be built in conjunction with the school with Chemistry and Botany laboratories, and will carry out research into the nature, composition, condition, etc. of soil, and into subjects leading to improved varieties of crops.

B. WESTERN REGION PLANTATION SCHEME

As a means of encouraging plantation farming the Egbado Divisional Council will jointly operate a small plantation

scheme

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scheme with the Western Regional Production Board. The Council will provide one square mile of land on which citrus, cocoa, and other cash crops will be cultivated. The Development Board will provide the necessary funds. Profits resulting from the scheme will be equally shared.

III. TRADE

A. JAPANESE TRADE MISSION (UNCLASSIFIED)

A six-man Japanese trade mission last week completed a brief visit to Nigeria as part of a West African tour. The main purpose of the mission was to encourage Japanese exports to West Africa.

COMMENT (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

Japan is the third largest provider of imports to Nigeria, being exceeded only by United Kingdom and Germany. In 1953 imports from Japan amounted to £5.6 million and during the first ten months of 1954 they totaled £6.3 million. Japanese imports from Nigeria during the same periods have been negligible. (Official statistics show Nigerian exports to Japan Jan.-Oct. 1954 as £1.) During a conference with the Trade Mission the Nigerian Minister of Commerce and Industries expressed his disappointment that in view of Japan's large export market in Nigeria, she did not buy larger quantities of Nigerian products. The Mission leader replied that Japan consume little of the products of which Nigeria has exportable quantities, and that she has sources of supply much closer to home. He did, however, undertake to make representation to the Japanese Government to increase imports from Nigeria. It is understood that this commitment caused some embarrassment to the Japanese Consul who states that his government has no intention of buying Nigerian produce in any quantity and that in view of Japan's overall sterling deficit and of her agreement with the United Kingdom there is no need for her to do so.

B. NIGERIAN TRADE STATISTICS, JAN.-OCT. 1954 (UNCLASSIFIED)

October Trade statistics have just been published. For the first ten months of 1954 total imports were £93.9 million, total exports £121.0 million, and re-exports £2.8 million. These compare with the following figures for the same period in 1953: £87.2 million, £100.7 million, and £3.0 million, respectively. Imports from and exports to the United States for the first ten months of 1954 and 1953 respectively were: Imports £4.2 and £3.5 million; exports £11.1 and £10.2 million.

IV. AGRICULTURE

A. TEMPORARY INTRODUCTION OF A SUB-GRADE OF COCOA IN THE WESTERN REGION

The Nigeria Cocoa Marketing Board on the recommendation of the Western Region Marketing Board and the Western Region Cocoa Representative Committee, has prescribed as a temporary measure only, a new grade of cocoa to be known as 'Sub-grade Cocoa' within the following limits of tolerance as to defective beans content:-

Cocoa which is thoroughly dry, free from foreign matter and from smoky, velvety or black beans and which contains less than -

(1) 15 per cent by count of mouldy, weevily, decayed and/or flat beans;

(2) 20 per cent by count of mouldy, weevily, decayed, flat and/or germinated beans; and

(3) 10 per cent by count of unfermented and/or insufficiently fermented beans

Provided that any parcel of such cocoa of which a sample of 300 beans weighs less than 11 ounces shall be designated 'Light Cocoa Sub-grade'.

Explaining the reason for the introduction of the new grade, the Marketing Board stated, "The need for this emergency measure arises from climatic considerations. Unusually heavy rains at the beginning of the season have caused difficulties in drying cocoa and an exceptionally high incidence of defective beans has resulted. In consequence quantities of cocoa which cannot be graded within the existing two grades prescribed by the Board are now offering in some areas in the Western Region.

Although regretting the need for this emergency relaxation in its standards of quality the Board believes that the temporary introduction of a sub-grade will lead to the purchase and marketing of these sub-grade stocks and will thus minimise the ill effects on the established grades of Nigerian cocoa of the unusual circumstances which characterise this cocoa season.

It is emphasised that the measures now bing taken apply only to the Western Region and are of a strictly temporary nature only and will come into effect on the 14th day of January, 1955, and end on the 31st day of March, 1955.

The Western

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The Western Region Marketing Board being the Board responsible for fixing prices in the Western Region has decided, on the advice of the Western Region Cocoa Representative Committee, to purchase all cocoa offered for sale for export under the sub-grade now prescribed at the price of £180 per ton naked ex-scale port of shipment".

B. INTRODUCTION OF NEW VARIETY OF COCOA

According to press reports, allocations are to be distributed in Nigeria of a new variety of cocoa, Upper Amazon Cocoa, which is being produced by the West African Cocoa Research Institute in Gold Coast.

C. BILL TO ESTABLISH CENTRAL MARKETING BOARD

A bill will be introduced to the House of Representatives in the session which convened today to establish a Nigeria Central Marketing Board. The new Board will be responsible for the export and sale of Nigerian produce which in other respects is subject to control by the several Regional Marketing Boards. Regional Marketing Boards have already been established in each of the three Regions and the Southern Cameroons to take over most of the functions of the old Boards.

Describing the bill, an official press release stated,

"The Nigeria Central Marketing Board will consist of a Chairman and eight members to be appointed by the Minister of Commerce and Industries. Seven of the Board's members will be representatives of the Regional Marketing Boards (two each from the Western, Northern and Eastern Boards and one from the Southern Cameroons Board) and one shall be a public officer in the public service of the Federation.

"The Central Marketing Board will have the sole responsibility for the export, shipment and sale overseas of produce purchased by the Regional Marketing Boards in accordance with their respective Ordinances and for the prescription of grades and standards of quality for produce purchased by the Regional Marketing Boards for export. In addition the Board may tender advice to Regional Boards on a variety of subjects connected with the purchase and processing of produce, control of pests, appointment of agents and the fixing, support and stabilisation of prices paid by Regional Marketing Boards for produce purchased by them. The produce subject to the Bill is Benniseed, Cocoa, Cotton Lint, Cottonseed, Groundnuts, Palm Kernels, Palm Oil and Soya Beans and products derived from such produce by local processing.

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"When the Bill becomes law the old Boards will cease to exercise the remaining Central functions which they are at present discharging and will remain in existence only for the purpose of their winding up. Under the provisions of the new Bill the Minister will have power to appoint a liquidator to attend to the winding up of each of the old Boards. Among his other duties will be the assessment of the balances remaining from the operations of the old Boards which may properly be transferred to the Regional Marketing Boards as the Governor-General-in-Council may order. When the funds and assets of the old Boards have been finally distributed and the process of winding up their affairs is completed the four original Nigeria Produce Marketing Boards will pass out of existence".

Elbert R. Williams
American Consul

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